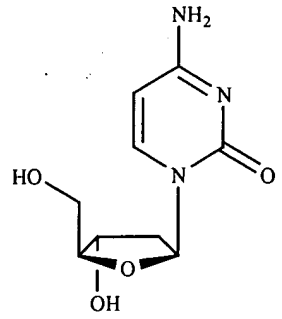
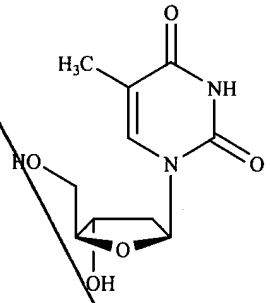
Please add the following claims:

13. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering an effective amount of β-L-2'-deoxycytidine of the formula:



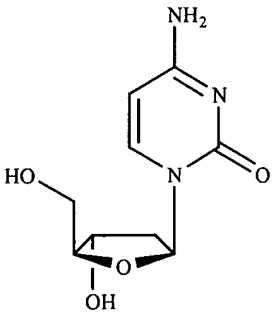
or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering an effective amount of β-L-thymidine of the formula:

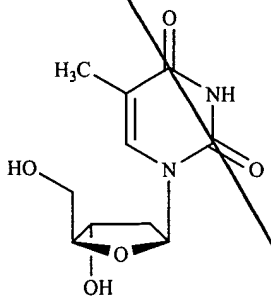


or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering an effective amount of a combination of the following nucleosides:

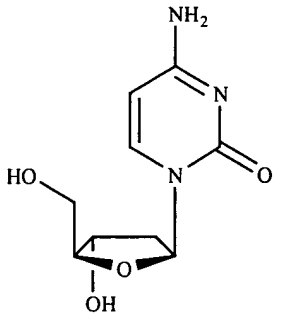


and



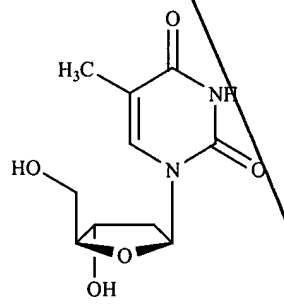
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl-uridine (L-FMAU), β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), famciclovir, penciclovir, 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylenecyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir and ribavirin.

17. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl-uridine (L-FMAU), β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), famciclovir, penciclovir,

2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylenecyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir and ribavirin.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the β-L-2'-deoxycytidine is at least 95% in its designated enantiomeric form.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein the β-L-2'-deoxycytidine is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

28. The method of claim 26 or 27, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

29. The method of claim 14, wherein the β-L-thymidine is at least 95% in its designated enantiomeric form.

30. The method of claim 14, wherein the β-L-thymidine is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

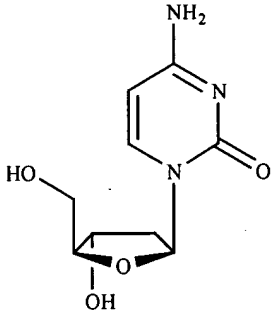
36. The method of claim 29, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

37. The method of claim 29, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

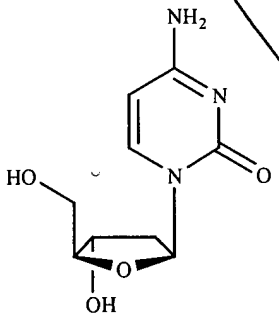
39. The method of claim 28 or 38, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

40. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



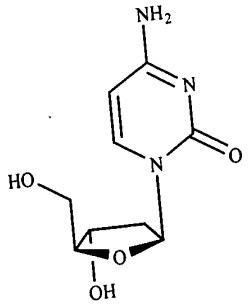
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

41. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



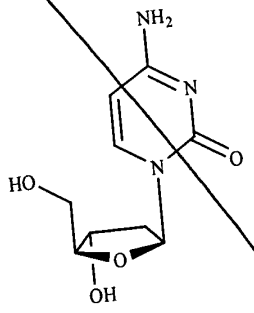
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



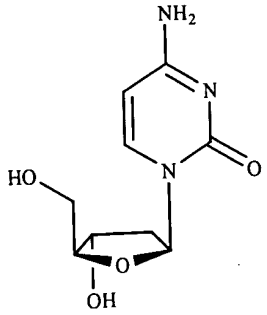
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl-uridine (L-FMAU), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

43. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



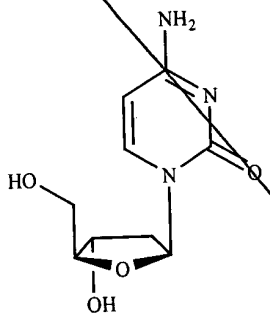
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



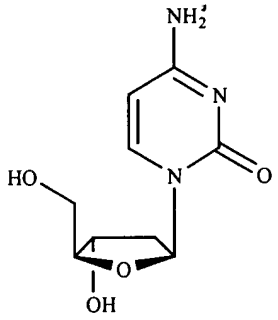
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of famciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



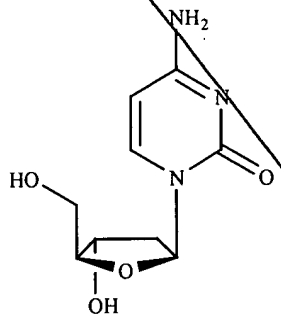
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of penciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



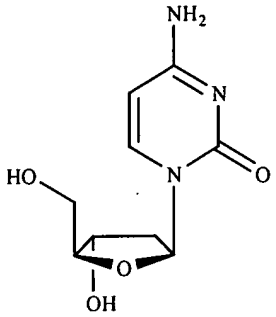
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylene-cyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



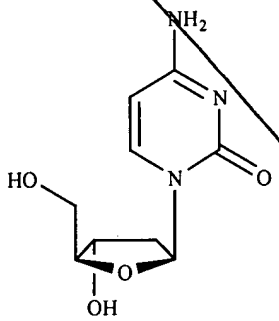
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



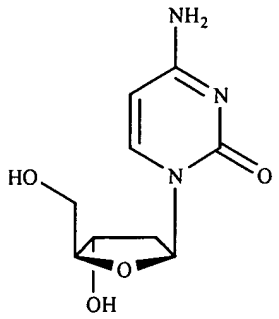
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of lobucavir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



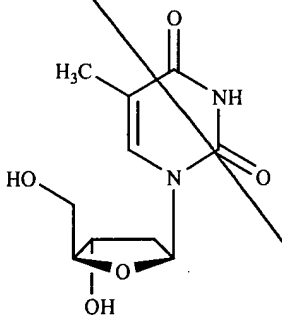
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of ganciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

50. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



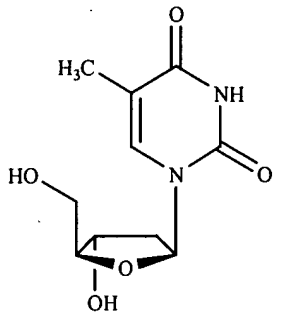
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of ribavirin, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

51. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



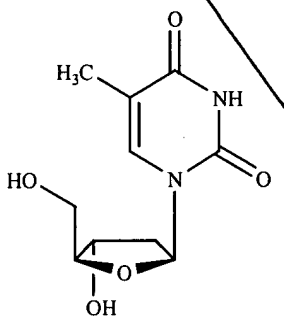
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

52. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



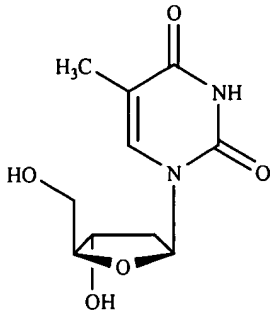
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (FTC), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

53. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



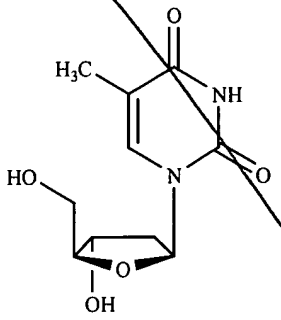
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl-uridine (L-FMAU), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



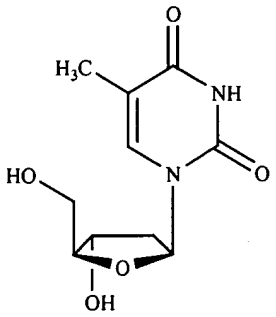
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of β-D-2,6-diaminopurine dioxolane (DAPD), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

55. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



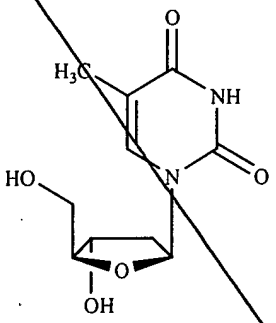
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of famciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

56. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



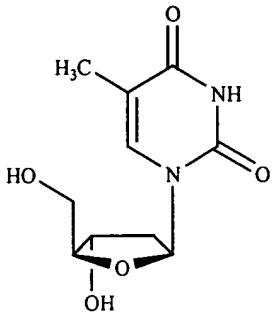
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of penciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

57. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



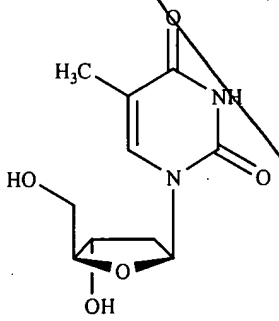
or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylene-cyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

58. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil), or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

59. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of lobucavir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.